

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



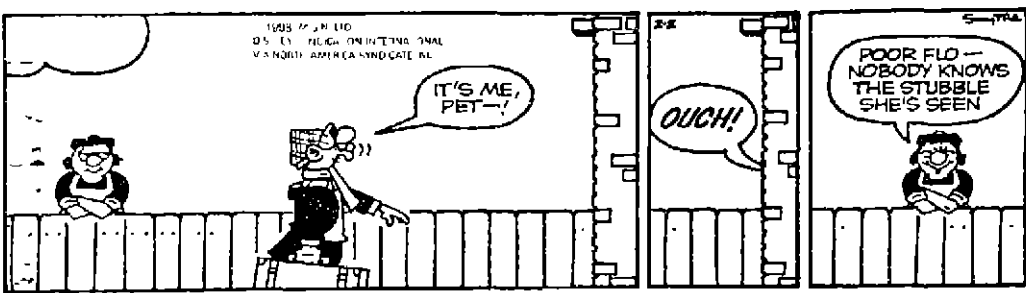
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9'CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



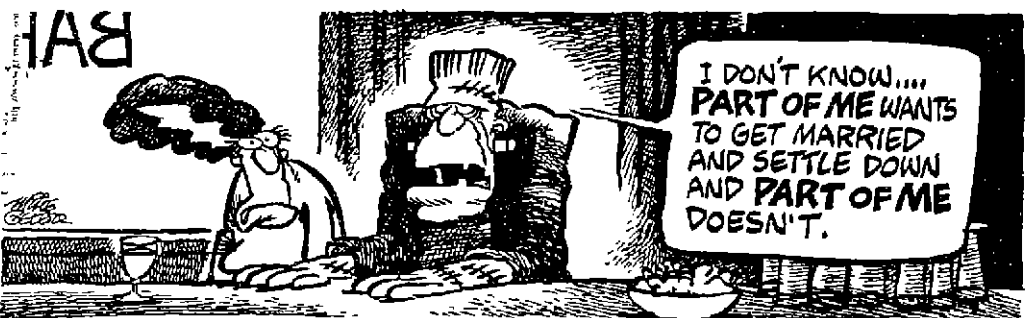
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



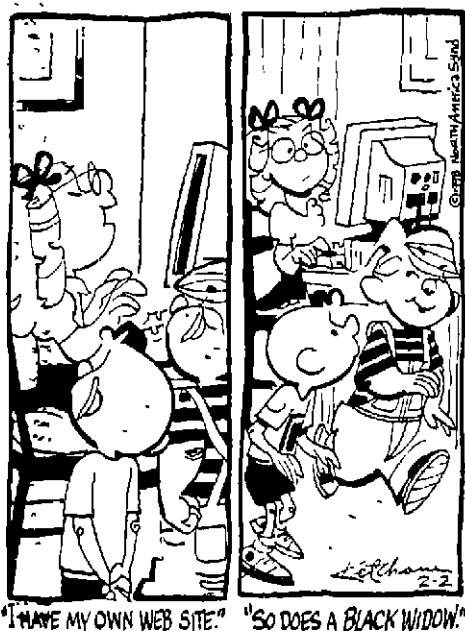
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Actress Elaine Stritch is 72. Actor Robert Mandan is 66. Comedian Tom Smothers is 61. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 56. Actor Bo Hopkins is 56. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 52. Actress Farrah Fawcett is 51. Model Christie Brinkley is 44. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Stone Temple Pilots) is 32. Rock musician Ben Mize (Counting Crows) is 27. Rapper T-Mo (Goodie Mob) is 26.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 100-110 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Fresh -

A A X U R P M J G D S A X V S
Q N K I H V F F D P P A X V T
Q O M S J E H R O F A C A B Y
W U I R A G P O U N I L A J H
F F I N G E R P R I N T S D B
Z X V T R T D Q O S T A R T M
K I H F D A B I Z E Y W E V D
T R Q O E B K N R E T A W O O
L K I R R L H I F D C A O Z O
X W B V I E E U S R Q L L O F
N M K M A S J I H F B E F D B

Saturday's unlisted clue: DEBT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Air Batteries Blood Bread Fingerprints Fish Flowers Food Fruit Ideas Milk Start Troops Vegetables Water

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a day of easy tasks for you, and you fairly hum as you complete each one. A midday trip to the bank might be a necessity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You find a way to make extra money by accepting a free-lance assignment of sorts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Daydreaming about an upcoming vacation isn't in your best interest. Instead, concentrate on your work.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend tries your patience with a problem you think is trivial. Try to be more patient.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) As the day begins, your mood fluctuates between optimism and pessimism. Once you regain equilibrium, you can be more productive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You'd like nothing better than to pull the covers over your head and stay in bed. Hiding isn't going to make that problem go away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's a productive day, and you seemingly can do six things at once. However, avoid overworking yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You really wish you hadn't said what you did in anger. However, all is not lost.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's noble to have such lofty ambitions. However, you need to aim just a bit lower to be successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Gossiping about a situation isn't going to solve it. Collaborate with someone who's been through a similar experience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You jump at the chance to do something different on the job. You welcome the challenge. Bigwigs are impressed.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The thought of an evening social commitment has you in a bit of a snit. You'd rather just stay home.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

South found the best technical play of today's club suit to avoid three losers. Unfortunately, it didn't help him. What he didn't consider was the best time to play the suit. South ruffed the second spade and drew trumps. With one spade already lost, South could make his game as long as he didn't lose three club tricks. Choosing the best line in clubs, South led a low club toward dummy and inserted the nine when West played low. Had West held the club 10, the finesse would have forced a high honor, and the defenders would have won only two clubs. Unluckily for South, East won the club 10 and had a safe exit in spades, ensuring a one-trick set for South. The correct play in clubs was not enough in today's layout. What was missing was the preparation required before starting the suit. After ruffing the second spade, South should cash his trump jack and dummy's queen. When trumps split, he ruffs dummy's last spade and cashes three high diamonds. With the side suits eliminated, it's time to play clubs. As before, a finesse to dummy's nine loses to East's 10, but East is endplayed if he leads a diamond. South enjoys a ruff and sluff. And if he leads a club, South, with good reason, lets it ride toward dummy's jack to force West's ace. Either way, South loses only three tricks and makes his game.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 3
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ Q J 10
♣ J 9 3

WEST
♠ K Q 10 8 6 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 9 5
♣ A 8 5

EAST
♠ A J 5
♥ 3 2
♦ 7 6 4 3 2
♣ Q 10 6

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding
1♥ 1♠ 3♥ 3♠ 4♥ Pass Pass Pass
*limit raise, 9 11 HCP

Opening lead: Spade king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1222

ACROSS

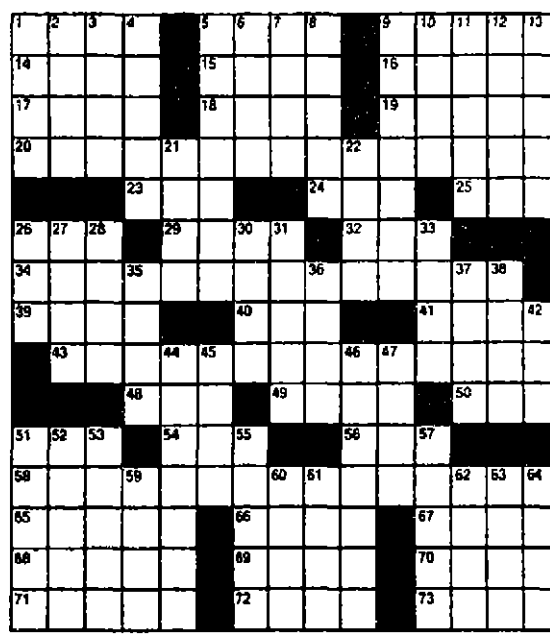
- 1 Capital of Azerbaijan
- 5 — Kell of early comics
- 9 Confronts
- 14 X — xylophone
- 15 Statutes
- 16 Nonsensical
- 17 Leave in, editorially
- 18 Explorer called "the Red"
- 19 Kind of orange
- 20 With 34-, 43- and 58-Across, message on a tourist's postcard
- 23 Chou En —
- 24 Bout outcome, briefly
- 25 River at Ghent
- 26 Strike caller
- 29 After
- 32 Truck track
- 34 See 20-Across
- 39 Composer Stravinsky
- 40 Moray, e.g.
- 41 Lendl of tennis
- 43 See 20-Across
- 48 Ordinal suffix
- 49 Card game start
- 50 Born Fr.
- 51 Airline with the old slogan "Up, up and away"
- 54 Broadcast
- 56 Oversized
- 58 See 20-Across
- 65 Put — to (end)
- 66 Surrealist Salvador
- 67 Gym socks may have one
- 68 India's first P.M.
- 69 "Holy moly!"
- 70 What's holding things up
- 71 Like Gatsby
- 72 Actress Russo
- 73 Root in Hawaiian cookery

DOWN

- 1 Wingding
- 2 Nick and Nora's dog
- 3 Chicken — (deep-fried dish)
- 4 "Don't open Christmas!"
- 5 Mournful
- 6 Scarlett's home
- 7 Baby branch
- 8 Broad necktie
- 9 Discover
- 10 Med course
- 11 Carp
- 12 Hostile force
- 13 Tennis champ Monica
- 21 Back of the neck
- 22 Gumbo
- 26 A.P. rival
- 27 Prefix with bucks or phone
- 28 Ship's front
- 30 Part of a rose

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

WEBBROWSER ITBE
OVERSTRIKE MAUL
MILITIAMEN SLID
ALIT SIP ROLLE
NENE TETRA YDS
SYD BAHRAIN HUT
EASED SOCKHOP
HAIR SELA
THEREOF REMAP
ROE COUTLASS LED
AWL ASHEN ISLE
GRIFT EVA SOLE
LOCO DECIPHERED
APER AMELIORATE
NEST HORSESENSE



Puzzle by Arthur S. Verdesca

- 31 Preppy's fabnc
- 33 Significantly underweight
- 38 At liberty
- 36 "What — can I say?"
- 37 Uniform
- 38 Lightly cooked
- 42 Actress Carrie
- 44 "Don't move!"
- 45 Toledo's home
- 46 Trip to the airport, say
- 47 Nobelst Wiesel
- 51 Nasal tone
- 52 More prudent
- 53 "World Turns"
- 58 Less polite
- 57 Basic Halloween costume
- 59 Jewish wedding dance
- 60 Carry on
- 61 Vivacity
- 62 — St. Vincent Millay
- 63 Din
- 64 Hence

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7 ACROSS